

Abolition of Her Vodka Monopoly Costs Russia Nearly \$350,000,000

London, March 4.—Abolition of the vodka monopoly has cost Russia more than \$350,000,000.

What capital Russia will require to meet her obligations and to establish a budget, as in normal times, has caused some uneasiness in Petrograd, due to striking calculations by Russian economists. It has been estimated by the New Economist, one of the most conservative reviews in Russia, that payment of interest and redemption of war debt, added to pensions for invalids and the families of the killed, will require a yearly total of \$1,150,000,000, in addition to the usual annual Russian expenditure, which normally is about \$1,750,000,000.

Monopolization of industry by the state is the only possibility to raise this enormous amount. This is the view of Prof. Migulin, editor of the New Economist. Prof. Migulin does not believe that the remedy can be found by taxation, because taxation has its limits.

Population Decreasing.

Moreover, the population of Russia is decreasing. Not only are the losses in the field to be counted, but there is an increase in the death rate and a decline in the birth rate. Official figures just published show that in fifty Russian provinces the death rate increased in 1914 by 8.9 per cent per 1,000 inhabitants.

BRINGS BACK 3,000 PLANTS FROM CHINA

Department of Agriculture Expedition
Returns After Three Years of
Exploration in Interior.

The third expedition into China to discover new plants suitable for introduction into the United States has been completed by F. M. Meyer, plant explorer of the Department of Agriculture, who has just returned to Washington after a three-year trip in the Far East. As a result of this expedition through the center of China, and two previous explorations of similar duration covering extensively cold Manchurian regions and the arid regions of Chinese Turkestan, there have been sent to America, for planting and testing for commercial adaptability, seeds, roots, or cuttings of some 3,000 food and forage plants, flowers, ornamental shrubs and vines, shade and timber trees.

The previous expeditions brought back to America specimens of many cold-resistant and dry-land grains, sorghums, soy beans, alfalfa, and also certain semitropical plants, such as the bamboo, which are now under experimentation to determine their usefulness for the extreme South.

Of the many specimens forwarded to this country during the last expedition, specialists regard the most significant as a fruit, the Chinese plum, which may be suitable for use in the Southwest; a wild peach resistant to alkali, cold, and drought, the root system of which offers great possibilities as a forage plant; and a number of Chinese vegetables, such as the number of Chinese vegetables, bush and climber roses, shrubs, and trees.

GIRL SCOUT NOTES.

Troop 1 held its regular meeting at the Jefferson School last Wednesday, under direction of its lieutenant, Miss Dorothy Putski. Its captain, Mrs. G. S. Baker, was absent from the city, having been called to Maine by the illness of her son.

At the conclusion of the regular routine, Mrs. Henry T. Rainey, president of the Girl Scouts of the District, presented the following report: The Girl Scouts of the District, under the leadership of Miss Rainey, have been very successful in their work. They have been very successful in their work. They have been very successful in their work.

The meeting of Troop 11 on Friday night was held at the home of the captain, Mrs. E. L. Farrington. The girls were very successful in their work. They have been very successful in their work. They have been very successful in their work.

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while the birth rate declined by 0.6 per cent per 1,000 inhabitants.

This means that during the first five months of war the population of the Russian empire decreased by 250,000 people.

Arguing for industrial monopolization by the state Prof. Migulin says: "Germany has already introduced the bread monopoly, the potato monopoly, the salt peter monopoly, coal mining monopoly, etc. There is no way out but to adopt the same measures for Russia."

In Bad Shape When War Ends. The Novos Vremia criticizes these views as Socialistic.

"Such a catastrophe can only be averted," says this influential Russian journal, "by the complete crushing of Germany. Otherwise, if the war finishes in a draw, there will be no end to the subsequent period of international distrust and a mad race in armaments will certainly mean absolute ruin for Russia."

It is pointed out that the material ruin of war and the deaths of hundreds of thousands of workmen will have serious effects in Russia, which will need great sums to fill up her own deficiencies and can scarcely expect to borrow money from small neutral countries, and the provinces the death rate increased in 1914 by 8.9 per cent per 1,000 inhabitants.

SURVEYS OF RIVERS IN OREGON COMPLETED

Geological Survey Announces Result
of Work on Middle Fork of
Willamette River.

Surveys and profiles have just been completed by the United States Geological Survey on the Middle Fork of Willamette River and on White River, Oregon, with a view to determining the location of undeveloped water powers on these streams, and the results have been published as Water Supply Paper 378. The six plan and profile sheets contained in the report show not only the outlines of the river banks, the islands, the positions of rapids, falls, shoals, and existing dams, and the crossings of all ferries and roads, but the contours of banks to an elevation high enough to indicate the possibility of using the stream for developing power.

Willamette River drains a trough-shaped area extending north and south between the Coast and Cascade ranges in Oregon, about 140 miles long and about 50 miles wide. The river is navigable for ocean-going vessels from its mouth to Portland, and for ordinary river steamboats from Portland to Corvallis, except during a few months of each year. Boats pass around the falls of Willamette River at Oregon City by a series of five locks, which are now in private ownership. The Willamette River is not subject to great floods, but is characterized by a large low-water flow. The effect of reservoirs on this river would therefore be less marked than in the case of mountain streams, but their operation would greatly enhance the value of the river for irrigation, power, and navigation.

White River is one of the larger tributaries of the Deschutes and rises on the eastern slopes of Mount Hood. A short distance west of Deschutes River the White falls from the Deschutes Plateau into a canyon, forming a number of picturesque cascades. This natural water power has been utilized by means of a hydroelectric plant.

NATURE RICHES HIDDEN.

Hard to Find Good Oil Producer in
Wyoming Section.

Nature's provisions for the comfort of mankind in accessible regions are sometimes well hidden and are found only after the scientist and the venturesome prospector have come to the aid of the settler. In the High Basin of Northern Wyoming, lack of water and lack of fuel are conspicuous features, and the sagebrush desert, where the temperature ranges from 32 degrees below zero in January to 106 degrees above zero in July, where the annual rainfall is less than six inches, and where timber is scarce, is not attractive to the settler.

Some years ago three wells drilled in a dome or upfold of the rocks near Basin, in Big Horn County, struck a strong flow of gas, and Greybull and Basin now have the distinction of being the only towns in Wyoming that are supplied with natural gas.

Field work done by United States Geological Survey parties has resulted in reports that show the position of the rock folds, and drilling has resulted in the discovery of oil. Fifty-two wells have been drilled near Basin up to last October, and more than three millions of them yielded oil or gas in commercial quantity.

In order to drill some of these wells water had to be hauled in wagons from the river, miles away. Water suitable for domestic use was found in many of the wells.

Protecting Trees from Injury. Rabbits and mice often do a great amount of damage in young orchards.

Rabbits work on top of the snow and mice under it. Merely tramping the snow hard around each tree as soon as it has fallen will much to keep mice away, and it is important to see that such mice are no nearer than six inches to the tree trunk unless some kind of protector is relied upon.

When there is a large orchard both rabbits and mice are sometimes used in a game way by fastening some devices around the trees which will turn all rodents. Undoubtedly the best protectors are tubes made of wire cloth or wood, which they can be purchased ready for use and are inexpensive. Says E. I. Farrington in Farm and Home.

The wire cloth should be twenty-four inches high, and is easily shaped by wrapping it around a broom handle. Then it will spring into place when set around a tree and no trying will be necessary. It is best to have the wire overlap an inch and it should stand at least an inch away from the tree all around.

Some growers make protectors of this kind at home. It is not necessary to buy heavy wire cloth with quarter-inch mesh and cut it into strips five to eight inches wide. The tube should be pressed an inch into the ground and may be left in place several years.

Wire cloth is sometimes used, but will eventually cut into the tree. Common wire screening may be used in an emergency, but is good for only a year or two.

CASSITERITE IN CALIFORNIA.

Tinstone Formation Found by Geological Survey Experts.

A description of an occurrence of cassiterite (tinstone) in San Diego County, Calif., has recently been published by the United States Geological Survey as Bulletin 629P. Waldemar T. Schaller, the author, has recently visited the locality, but does not consider the deposit of industrial importance.

A small quantity of crystals found near Oak Grove, San Diego County, in the spring of 1915, is all the cassiterite so far obtained. The region, however, offers possibilities to the gem miner. The same pegmatite dike in which the cassiterite crystals were found has yielded blue tourmaline and columbite.

Royal Arcanum Councils.

The Grand Council will hold its annual session this year in the New Elbert Hotel on the evenings of April 2 and 3. James H. Ruth, grand orator, is chairman of the committee having charge of the banquet, which will follow the short business session on the second evening.

Councils meeting this week are: Monday evening, National Council in Pythian Temple; Tuesday evening, Oriental Council in Old Masonic Temple, and Wednesday evening, Municipal Council in North-east Masonic Temple, at Eighth and F streets northeast, and Francis Scott Key Council in Potomac Building, Georgetown. A special program with refreshments, is announced for Tuesday evening by Oriental Council, which will hold a "Regent's Class Night."

Capitol Council announces an "Identification" meeting for March 23 in Pythian Temple, when candidates will be initiated and a special program of entertainment, including refreshments, will be presented by Orator A. L. Eberole.

The Royal Arcanum Hospital Bed Fund Association held its regular monthly meeting last Monday evening in Pythian Temple and perfected arrangements for a theater party at Poll's on the evening of April 17. President W. L. Buckley appointed M. A. Tolson, J. C. Littlepage, A. B. Keefe and George W. Smith members of the committee in charge.

MILLIONS IN METALS.

Immense Value of Silver and Lead
Mined in Utah.

The Cottonwood-American Fork mining region, Utah, has produced over twenty million dollars worth of metals—silver and lead and smaller quantities of gold and copper, states a report of the Geological survey.

The region includes the Big Cottonwood, Little Cottonwood, American Fork, and Alpine mining districts, in the central part of the Wasatch Mountains, just southwest of the Park City district. Alta, the principal town, is about twenty miles southeast of Salt Lake City. The region extends to the edge of Salt Lake Valley. The west base of the range stands about 5,000 feet above sea level, and the highest summits reach altitudes of 11,500 feet. The heavy snowfall greatly interferes with winter operations and since the timber was removed snowdrifts have been a menace to life and property.

Last Thursday Troop 10 met at the home of its captain. For girls took their tenderfoot examination. Wyatt Franks gave the troop its first lesson in telegraphy, going through the alphabet with the members. Scouts Martha Dunham and Frances Weedon, of Troop 1, visited the troop.

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